

Date: Sat, 5 Jun 93 04:30:15 PDT
From: Info-Hams Mailing List and Newsgroup <info-hams@ucsd.edu>
Errors-To: Info-Hams-Errors@UCSD.Edu
Reply-To: Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu
Precedence: Bulk
Subject: Info-Hams Digest V93 #684
To: Info-Hams

Info-Hams Digest Sat, 5 Jun 93 Volume 93 : Issue 684

Today's Topics:

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 ALERT: Minor Geomagnetic Storm Alert
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 Curtis 8044,8044B,8044ABM ?
 Help me find a pair of swinging chokes
 Mixers (not eggbeaters)
 NBS time signal and receiver for it
 Radio shack 2mtr ht, DTMF tone prob
Warning! Possible Fradulent Business Activities by Navtec

Send Replies or notes for publication to: <Info-Hams@UCSD.Edu>
Send subscription requests to: <Info-Hams-REQUEST@UCSD.Edu>
Problems you can't solve otherwise to brian@ucsd.edu.

Archives of past issues of the Info-Hams Digest are available
(by FTP only) from UCSD.Edu in directory "mailarchives/info-hams".

We trust that readers are intelligent enough to realize that all text
herein consists of personal comments and does not represent the official
policies or positions of any party. Your mileage may vary. So there.

Date: 5 Jun 1993 06:08:58 GMT
From: usc!wupost!csrcnis1.unl.edu!mcduffie@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Air-band radio question
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I can't believe this question is even being asked!

Date: 5 Jun 93 07:27:39 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu

Subject: ALERT: Minor Geomagnetic Storm Alert
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

\\ \\

MINOR GEOMAGNETIC STORM ALERT

ISSUED: 15:00 UT, 04 JUNE

\\ \\

NOTE: This alert was resent at 07:00 UT on 05 June after it was found the original alert failed to make it out. We apologize for the delay.

ATTENTION:

Geomagnetic activity surpassed the minor storm threshold at 12:00 UT on 04 June. This disturbance is the result of a well-placed coronal hole. Conditions are expected to gradually subside on 05 and 06 June, becoming mostly unsettled on 07 June. The most intense activity (minor to major substorming) can be expected during the local night hours of 05 June. Additional residual (and less frequent) minor substorming can be expected over the higher latitudes during the local night hours on 06 June. However, the general overall trend of activity should be downward over the next three days.

** End of Alert **

Date: Fri, 4 Jun 1993 22:09:19 GMT
From: usc!howland.reston.ans.net!torn!nott!bnrgate!bcars267!bnr.ca!
cnc291@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: AM Aircraft Bands on Yaesu-415???
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

This is a two part post: first, to see if I am making out of BNR land onto Internet. If I see any responses, I'll have that one answered! :> If you try to reply, I beleive any email will fail, as I definitely don't have e-mail approval out to Internet, only within the local net, so please post (if only once to let me know this made it to some other site).

Second: I saw several posts that referred to being able to receive AM signals in the aircraft band on a Yaesu product (don't remember the model). The keystrokes to do this were (f/m SET f/m VF0). Since my

Yaesu 415 has those same keys, I thought I'd give this a try, but no luck. Does anyone know if the Y-415 can be modified to receive or send on the aircraft bands in AM? Interested because my hang gliding club members are almost all ham operators, and we currently have only one aircraft transceiver to talk to the FBO when we are towing at airports. Being able to receive would be great, and transmit also would allow us to fly at several different airports without having to lay out the \$\$\$ to get another aircraft HT.

Brent Harsh

KD4PBO

Standard Disclaimers Apply - opinions of employers and all that jazz.

Date: 5 Jun 93 07:36:15 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: AURORA WATCH: Middle Latitude Auroral Activity Watch
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

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MIDDLE LATITUDE AURORAL ACTIVITY WATCH

ISSUED: 22:00 UT, 04 JUNE

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VALID UNTIL: 19:00 UTC ON 06 JUNE

MODERATE RISK PERIOD: 05 - 06 JUNE (UT days)

PREDICTED ACTIVITY INDICES FOR NEXT 3 DAYS: 30, 22, 17 (05 - 07 JUN)
(INPUT INTO THE PREDICTIVE AURORA SOFTWARE *)

POTENTIAL MAGNITUDE OF MIDDLE LATITUDE AURORAL ACTIVITY: LOW - MODERATE

EXPECTED LUNAR INTERFERENCE: HIGH

OVERALL OPPORTUNITY FOR OBSERVATIONS FROM MIDDLE LATITUDES: FAIR TO POOR

AURORAL ACTIVITY MAY BE OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY NORTH OF A LINE FROM...

MOST OF THE NORTHERN U.S. STATES AND SOUTHERN CANADA FROM SOUTHERN
BRITISH COLUMBIA TO CENTRAL MONTANA TO NORTH DAKOTA DAKOTA TO
MINNESOTA TO MICHIGAN TO NORTHERN NEW YORK STATE TO SOUTHERN MAINE
AND POSSIBLY PARTS OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

ACTIVITY MAY ALSO BE OBSERVED APPROXIMATELY NORTH OF A LINE FROM...

NORTHERN U.K. TO THE NORTHERN EUROPEAN REGIONS INCLUDING MUCH OF
THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL PARTS OF NORWAY, SWEDEN AND FINLAND, TO
NORTHERN RUSSIA.

* Contact: Oler@Rho.Uleth.CA or COler@Solar.Stanford.Edu for more information
regarding the Auroral Activity Prediction and Simulation Software.

SYNOPSIS...

A minor auroral storm has formed that is permitting auroral activity to be observed over middle latitude regions, despite the rather strong phase of the moon. A well-placed solar coronal hole is responsible for the disturbance producing this activity. Activity is expected to gradually subside over the next three days, becoming relatively dormant and invisible to middle latitude sites by 07 June. The amount of lunar interference will substantially hamper attempts to view activity.

This WATCH will remain active until 19:00 UT on 06 June when it will either be updated or allowed to expire.

** End of Watch **

Date: 5 Jun 1993 02:38:49 -0500
From: swrinde!cs.utexas.edu!geraldo.cc.utexas.edu!doc.cc.utexas.edu!not-for-mail@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Blind VE's---Let's Get a Few Things Straight
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Greetings!

I've been sort of "in on" this whole issue of blind VE's in charge of testing sessions since the Newsline report and Buddy, KB5ELV's original article. I've seen the responses to this, and I've read what Mike Freeman has written in the defense of blind VE's. Now it's my turn.

First, let me get the groundwork out of the way. I am blind myself. I have limited vision, which is quite useable. This does not however make me partially sighted, physically challenged or occularly deprived. I'm blind. It is a characteristic of mine, the same as my mustache and my height. And I'll blow away a few myths from the start here. I'm working in a field which would seem to appear impossible for me to manage, but I've been doing it successfully for the past two and a half years. As an Audio/video Technician for the University of Texas at Austin, I must go all over our rather large campus and

operate several different (and agina) audio/video systems. I do my job through alternative techniques that I have developed over the years. When I was hired, my boss didn't waste a lot of time asking me how I would get the job done. He simply made it clear that if I didn't measure up I was out the door. Such should be the same for *ANY* VE.

Second, with all due respect to the man with a blind brother who wrote a previous article, I have this to say. I rather doubt that he would have gotten away with the things that he did if his brother had had a live reader on hand at the time. Live readers have been used successfully by blind professional people for decades now, and their use has proven over time to be helpful for more than just reading. One of their duties might be to look for cheaters during the testing sessions, along with the VE's present.

The entire crux of the argument that has been presented by the FCC and supported by such individuals as the one that I've mentioned and Tony AB6GA, is that blind VE's are incapable of being in charge of testing sessions because they would be incapable of detecting cheating. This whole argument crumbles however, in the light of the fact that blind VE's can make use of live readers and alternative technologies to get the job done. This isn't hokus-pokus. Just good, common sense.

And lastly I'd like to thank Warren Whitby and Kevin Parcell N7WIN/G8UDP for their supportive words. They are joined by a great number of amateurs who have already joined their blind neighbors in the hobby in protest of the FCC's discriminatory action. People like these have viewed this situation with sensibility and good-old horse sense, rather than through the distorting lens of outdated prejudices concerning "the helpless blind man." I'm proud to know that the hobby includes such people of true vision.

Just one more thing. As for the person who wrote that blind VE's in charge of testing sessions would be impractical until the invention of the "Geordi visor," I'd suggest that you fit the first one for yourself.

73
....dit-dit

Date: 4 Jun 93 15:20:50 GMT
From: usc!hacgate!dunes!tony@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: blind VEs
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

In article <9306040341.AA05413@netmail.microsoft.com>, a-kevinp@microsoft.COM (Kevin Purcell, Rho) writes:

|> When I heard this story on Newsline the first thing I thought of was
|> the previous reports of the "Hamgate" sting operation on a ham radio
|> school in Southern California. The person accused there (Pascal?) was a
|> blind ham (VE? or did he own the radio school at which the exams were
|> set). The "charges" were dropped by the FCC citing lack of evidence.

|>
|> Did this have anything to do with the ruling (or am I just paranoid)?
|>
|> I am curious to see what position the ARRL takes over this? Any
|> comments from Newington or will the Bored of Directors make a pronouncement.
|>
|> As others have pointed out there is no real reason for excluding any
|> disabled hams from becoming VEs if appropriate accomodations are made.
|>
|> Kevin Purcell N7WIM / G8UDP
|> a-kevinp@microsoft.com
|> "We conjure the spirits of the computer with our spells"

Most of the time I agree with the handicap rules that say they can have equal oportuny to do the same as others.. however, here I must agree with the FCC. The ruling was not baring him from being a VE, but rather as the VE who was in charge of the session. That is the Head VE of a test session. It is clear that the person in charge must be able to oversee what is happening in the session he is responcible for. If you cannot see, you cannot see if someone is cheating. That goes for both testers and testee's

! As the VE in charge of our local test sessions I can tell you there are some VE and test takers that sometimes try to cheat. You must be able to see to catch this. Sometimes a handicap is just that, a handicap. I'm not saying he can't help in the session, but to oversee its process... I think not.

73

Tony AB6GA

ARRL VE

Date: Fri, 4 Jun 1993 23:31:06 GMT
From: sdd.hp.com!hpscit.sc.hp.com!icon.rose.hp.com!cmoore@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Curtis 8044,8044B,8044ABM ?
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

David Cook (davidc@hplsla.hp.com) wrote:

: What are the differences between the 8044, 8044B, and 8044ABM Curtis Keyer
: IC's? I am thinking about ordering one of these for a keyer project. I
: have a schematic for a circuit using the 8044. Are the B and ABM version
: drop in replacements?

: Thanks in advance for your replies.

: Dave Cook KB7QCL

The M suffix means that it has 2 extra pins for a meter to be attached to indicate speed. The pins are located such that you can use a regular 8044

in place of the M version and it will work (but with no meter).

The B suffix means that in iambic operation, when you squeeze the paddles, the keyer will insert an extra element after you let go. For example, you squeeze the paddles, the keyer sends dah-di-dah. During the last dah you let go. With the B suffix it will add an additional dit on the end. The non-B suffix doesn't.

I'm not sure about the ABM suffix.

Chris Moore
cmoore@mothra.rose.hp.com
N6IYS

Date: 4 Jun 93 23:10:02 GMT
From: news-mail-gateway@ucsd.edu
Subject: Help me find a pair of swinging chokes
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

>Henry writes:
>Hello. I am building a vacuum tube project that requires a high
>voltage power supply. I need a pair of swinging chokes, approximate
>ratings 250mA, 5/20H. If anyone has a pair of chokes like this kicking
>around his basement, or can help me locate a source, I'd appreciate
>hearing about it!

If you can't find a pair of swinging chokes, you can make some using the following technique:

Obtain a pair of smoothing chokes having the electrical characteristics you desire (250ma, 20H). Remove and restack the iron to form all "E" and "I" pieces. Slip the "E" into the coil and lay the "I" piece against the ends of the "E". The amount of gap between the "E" ends will determine the amount of saturation. A gap of 2-5 thousandths of an inch will be about right for your application. The inductance will be high at low current values and will drop as the current increases.

BTW: Swinging chokes were originally used as a crude form of regulation. They do not work well as filter chokes as their inductance varies too much with rectification pulses. One swinging choke followed by one or more smoothing chokes was preferred.

Hugh Wells
W6WTU

Date: 4 Jun 93 17:10:47 GMT
From: usc!sdd.hp.com!hp-cv!logicse!flop.ENGR.ORST.EDU!gaia.ucs.orst.edu!
connected.com!beauty!nwnexus!ole!ssc!markz@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Mixers (not eggbeaters)
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

Daniel Murphy (danielm@tekgen.bv.tek.com) wrote:

: In article <1ul7p9\$t56@usenet.rpi.edu> maessm@rpi.edu writes:
: >I am looking for information on the design and use of RF mixers. I would ap-
: >preciate any direction as to books, magazine articles, etc. that detail the
: >design and construction of mixers, and equations to figure out such things as
: >LO drive, 3rd-order intercept, etc. I am looking for more than just the Hand-
: >book treatment of the subject. (KE4ZV, KH6CP, you guys listening?)
:
: Also, Ed Oxner from Siliconix covers FET mixers in "Designing With
: Field-Effect
: Transistors". I think the 3rd edition is currently available.

Also the Siliconx Low Power Discretes Data Book has a lot of ap notes on
their special mixers.

Mark Zenier markz@ssc.wa.com markz@ssc.com

Date: 4 Jun 1993 22:46:29 GMT
From: lll-winken.llnl.gov!sun-barr!korie!male.EBay.Sun.COM!west.West.Sun.COM!
cronkite.Central.Sun.COM!news2me.EBay.Sun.COM!exodus.Eng.Sun.COM!neutron!
parkin@ames.arpa
Subject: NBS time signal and receiver for it
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I would like to build a receiver to pick up the NBS
time signal and interface the data to a PC. Have there
been any articles on such a thing in QST, CQ, etc.
Thanks, Mike (KN6AN)

Date: 5 Jun 1993 02:09:47 GMT
From: nothing.ucsd.edu!brian@network.UCSD.EDU
Subject: Radio shack 2mtr ht, DTMF tone prob
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

> ... the "alligator" will get you!

"alligator???" Sigh.

Well, buddy, lemme tell you a story. Seems that a long time ago, repeater people used to refer to a repeater that had a larger transmit range than its receive range as an "alligator repeater" - 'cause it was all mouth and no ears.

But then we suffered the invasion of those old folks who had been on 40 meters for 20 years, or 20 meters for 40 years or some such, and well, they didn't know what an alligator repeater was, but they wanted to sound hip and groovy and with-it all around, and they heard people referring to the alligator repeater, and they didn't like the concept that there was a timer that prevented them from propping a brick on the PTT switch and talking until they were blue in the face, so they starting calling the blab-off timer an alligator, and there you are.

It's easy to spot a rookie.

- Brian

Date: Sat, 05 Jun 1993 00:10:48 GMT
From: ns.risc.net!mike@uunet.uu.net
Subject: Warning! Possible Fradulent Business Activities by Navtec
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

I am interested in conversing with individuals who are currently in the process of doing business with Navtec, a company based in Newport Beach California. I believe they may be involved in using "bait and switch" techniques, and I have filed complaints with the California State Attorney General's Consumer Fraud division.

If you have experienced a similar situation, please contact the California State Attorney General's office at:

Public Inquiry Unit
Office Of The Attorney General
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550

-- my story

In early March 1993 I called Navtec to order their "SA-500 Spectrum Analyzer Scope Adapter", a device which you allows you to use your o-scope as a spectrum analyzer. This device was advertised in many national magazines, such as 73 Amateur Radio Today, with a price of \$549.95 and an "early bird discount" of a 50mhz marker generator included at no cost.

At the time of order, I was informed that these units were "very popular", and they were backordered approximately three weeks - I "should receive the unit the second week in April".

April 15th came and went, and around the 21st I called Navtec to determine the status of my order. After several days of "no salespeople in the office" (they were all at a trade show, supposedly) and promises that "someone will call you back this afternoon", I finally spoke to someone who indicated that there were some delays due to shipping problems, and that my unit should be sent out within another few weeks.

Another "few weeks" pass, and I call again to speak to someone. This time, I spoke to a nice woman who assured me that my unit would be "shipping the week of May 31st."

Welp, I called again today, to verify that my unit had indeed been shipped. This time I spoke to someone named "Craig", who informed me that "they were having technical problems" with the units, and that there was no way he could give me a revised shipping date. He did say, however, that I had three options:

- 1) I could cancel my order (wouldn't they just **love** for me to do that!),
- 2) I could continue to wait, or
- 3) I could "upgrade" to a different unit for "only a couple hundred more".

Clearly, this company is using classic stalling techniques in an attempt to get frustrated customers to simply say "the hell with it", and upgrade to the different unit. Typical bait-and-switch. In my opinion, I do not think that this company ever had the intention of producing these units as they advertised.

The "different unit" they offered is a discontinued unit, which they can't dump. Obviously they are, in my opinion, using bait-and-switch in an attempt to lead consumers into purchasing this other unit - their excess and obsolete inventory.

Also, as part of my conversation with "Craig", he informed me that there was no way they could give me a revised shipping date, because Navtec was working on more "important" products, such as their "frequency counter"... I found this so interesting... I would have thought that a company which had a "very popular" item would in fact be spending a significant amount of time to get it "fixed" for the customers that ordered it. (Unless, of course, you really had another motive....)

Thanks for your attention. Please let me know if you've had a similar experience...

Mike

Date: 5 Jun 1993 02:18:30 GMT
From: nothing.ucsd.edu!brian@network.UCSD.EDU
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <C80CM1.2KC@squam.banyan.com>, <1uj4m1INNmeg@rosebud.ncd.com>,
<4009@eram.esi.COM.AU>
Subject : Re: Repeaters with those damned beeps

Foo on telemetry beeps; what you really need to do is strip the transmit
PL and send a packet burst containing the entire system status in one frame
once every 15 minutes.

Your home computer can log those to provide a complete history of the
system, can alert you if trouble is reported, and can even dial your
pager if something serious is wrong.

Oh, you can't buy that feature off-the-shelf in a manufactured controller?
Too bad.

- Brian

Date: 5 Jun 1993 02:25:03 GMT
From: nothing.ucsd.edu!brian@network.UCSD.EDU
To: info-hams@ucsd.edu

References <C80JKJ.KwH@avalon.chinalake.navy.mil>, <1ul3rqINN492@topaz.bds.com>,
<1993Jun4.151915.5052@mks.com>
Subject : Re: [Q] oper. rules for 49mhz "Part 15". Unlicensed?

In article <1993Jun4.151915.5052@mks.com> richw@mks.com (Rich Wales) writes:
>I haven't yet managed to conclusively identify which neighbors, and
>even if I do there is no guarantee that I'll be able to convince them
>to switch their baby monitor to another frequency. :-{

If it's a typical baby monitor, you'll be able to identify which house
it's in simply by listening to it and noting the coincidence of auto
noise as a car drives by the house.

Then you tape record the late-night activity - heavy breathing, moans,
etc. that the baby monitor's high-gain microphone is faithfully
broadcasting all over the neighborhood, and mail the tape (after wiping
off all the fingerprints and labelling it 'baby monitor intercept') to
the offending party, and I'll betcha dollars to doughnuts that they

switch that puppy off real fast.

At least, that's how the proposed tactics were described to me....

- Brian

End of Info-Hams Digest V93 #684
